

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA***

***San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt***

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***For Immediate Release***

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - August 25, 2008**

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Art Garcia was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego by the Honorable Thomas J. Whelan to serve a custodial sentence of 120 months, to be followed by a five-year term of supervised release based upon Garcia's conviction for Importation of Cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952 and 960 and Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, in violation of Title 21 United States Code, Section 841(a)(1). Garcia was convicted by a jury on January 11, 2008.

The conviction and sentence arise from Garcia's arrest on June 14, 2007, at the Calexico, California West Port Entry. On that day, Garcia attempted to enter the United States from Mexico as the driver and sole occupant of a 1995 Toyota Camry which was later found to contain 8.0 kilograms/17.60 pounds of cocaine concealed in the air bag area of the vehicle. The cocaine was discovered after a narcotics detector dog alerted U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers to the presence of a narcotic odor inside of the vehicle.

This case stems from an investigation conducted by agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and officers from U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 07CR2455-W**

Art Garcia

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952 and 960 (Importation of Cocaine)

Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) (Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute)

**AGENCIES**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Customs and Border Protection